(c) what is the annual seizure of snake skins at various points of smuggling (with value) and what is the estimated value of snake skins smuggled out of the country unchecked.

(d) what efforts have been made so far to identify the illegal traders of snake skins in the country and their contacts both within and outside the country: and

(e) wha is the outcome thereof stating the measures taken so far to check the illegal trade in snake skins which is banned under the Wildlife Protection Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) On 21.5.92, 1848 pieces of snake skins derived from python rat snake and water snake were seized by the Delhi Custom Authorities from a Swedish National. No precise value of the seized skins can be determined as there is no legal trade in the species in this country. However, the value of the consignment in panchnama has been assess to be approximately Rs. 1,84 lakhs.

(c) The seizures made by the Custom Authorities At Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi during 1991 were as follows:

Name of port	No. of snake skins/ items seized
Madras	76 wallets and 49 bags
Calcutta	4 snake skin purses
Delhi	199 skins and 28 skin articles
Bombay	4221 pieces
Total	4420 skins and 157 items

(d) Wherever during cross examination of the persons apprehended with the illicit goods, some information regarding others engaged in the illegal trade comes to light, raids on trading establishments are carried out with the help of local police authorities, with the extent of results varying from case to case.

(e) Measures taken to prevent such incidents are;

(i) Regional Deputy Directors, Wildlife Preservation, have been posted at four major ports i.e. Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, and Madras. Asstt. Director, Wildlife Preservation have been posted under them carry out surprise checkings at the port with the help of Custom Authorities.

(ii) the officials of state wildlife wing also carryout periodic checkings of the stocks held by the licenced dealers under the order of Hon'ble High Courts. Raids are also organised by these officials to apprehend illegal traders, whenever any intelligence in this regard is received.

(iii) A system of cash rewards has been introduced for getting intelligence about smugglers.

(iv) India being a member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Cooperation of International Community is also obtained in apprehending the smugglers.

(v) Cooperation of Directorate, Revenue Intelligence Coast Guard, Border Security Force and C.R.P.F. is also taken in safeguarding against smuggling of Wildlife products.

Fire in Jammu and Kashmir Forest Corporation Depots

1278. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption S.F.C. Depots fires-Nexus between officials, contractors which appeared in the daily Kahmir Times, Jammu; dated the 8th May, 1992;

(b) what is the value of loss of timber in the fires in Neeltrath Chanderkot, Aarpichlakhari Depots of S.F.C.; and

(c) whether any case has been registered against the accused and or any departmental proceedings; instituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected from Govt. of J&K and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Noise Pollution in Delhi

1279. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some important intersections in Delhi have been identified as having noise level more than the permissible limits;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to tackle the high noise pollution level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) According to Noise Surveys carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board, the noise level at some of the traffic intersections in Delhi were found to be higher than the prescribed standards.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to reduce noise pollution include the following:

(1) Ambient Air Quality Standards in respect of noise for different categories of areas have been notified. Noise limits have also been prescribed for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipment to be adopted at the manufacturing stage. Noise limits for automobiles have to be met by December, 1992 while those for appliances and equipment are to be met by December, 1993.

(2) Codes of practice for controlling noise from sources other than industries and automobiles have been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board and the various State Governments have been requested to implement the same.

(3) In Delhi to control noise pollution, 19 areas around educational institutions and 28 areas around hospitals and 23 residential/office areas have been declared as silence zones. Restrictions placed on blowing of horns in these zones are being enforced by the Delhi Traffic Police. Prosecutions have been launched against the violators of these restrictions.

Indian Forest Services Division

1280. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study of the working of the Indian Forest Service Division which was conducted by the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management of the Department of Personnel and Training has found serious lapes in the implementation of perssonnel policy and career management of the officers of the Indian Forest Service;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve the situation since the report was submitted;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the same report had also suggested further studies to be carried out for better personnel management; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken till now and intends to take in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) While no lapses as such have been identified by the study in the working of the Cadre Management Division of the Indian Forest Service, the Study team of the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management has made a number of recommendations for revising procedures for timely completion of annual confidential reports, confirmation of officers, disposal of representations, memorials and appeals, maintenance of property returns, reviews for continuance in